
REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the office action mailed on December 4, 2002 and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1-25 are now pending in the application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Juneja et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,127,728) in view of Beck (U.S. Patent No. 2,695,351). Applicant traverses the rejections of claims 1-2 and 4-6.

Claims 1 and 4 recite, “a core layer including a number of fibers.” In contrast, Juneja et al., at column 2, lines 43-45, recite, “In the preferred embodiment, the substrate 42 comprises three material layers 50, 52, and 54, which comprise pre-preg, a BT resin core and pre-preg, respectively.” Hence, Juneja et al. do not teach or suggest “fibers,” so Juneja et al. do not teach or suggest “a core layer including a number of fibers.” Also, in contrast, Beck, at column 3, lines 43-48, recites, “Upon the base sheet 10 there is ultimately laminated or formed thereon another superimposed insulating resinous sheet 11 and between the two resinous or plastic insulating sheets 10 and 11, which are bonded together, there are formed the conductive elements, of which many are shown in Figure 1.” Hence, Beck et al. does not teach or suggest “a core layer including a number of fibers.” Hence, neither Juneja et al. nor Beck, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest “a core layer including a number of fibers,” so the references fail to teach or suggest each of the elements of claims 1 and 4. Thus, the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 1 and 4.

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 4. For reasons analogous to those provided above and elements in the claims, applicant respectfully submits that office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 2, 5, and 6.

Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Juneja et al., as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Benzinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,617,613). Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 3.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1. The office action relies on Juneja et al. to teach or suggest "a core layer including a number of fibers." Since, as argued above with respect to claim 1, Juneja et al. do not teach or suggest "a core layer including a number of fibers," and since Benzinger et al. do not teach or suggest, "a core layer including a number of fibers" neither Juneja et al. nor Benzinger et al., either alone or in combination, teach or suggest, "a core layer including a number of fibers," so the references fail to teach or suggest each of the elements of claim 3. Hence, the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 3. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 3.

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant admitted prior art shown in a figure 1 (AAPA, hereinafter) in view of Benzinger et al., Juneja et al., and Beck. Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 16-19.

Claim 16 recites, "the second circuit board having a surface located at a distance of between about 10% and about 30% of the thickness away from the number of fibers." The office action cites to Juneja et al. and states (on page 4) that Juneja et al. teaches, "a surface layer (50) having a surface layer thickness between about 10 and 30% of the circuit board thickness (figure 2)." Thus, the office action asserts that "surface layer thickness" teaches or suggests "a surface located at a distance . . . away from the number of fibers." Applicant respectfully submits that the asserted teaching of Juneja et al. does not teach the recited element. Hence, since none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the recited element, the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 16.

Claims 17 and 18 are dependent on claim 16. For reasons analogous to those provided above, applicant respectfully submits that the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 17 and 18. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of claims 16, 17, and 18.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance and claims 7-15 and 20-25.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at 612-371-2109 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

April 4, 2003

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 4 day of April, 2003.

Name

Tina Kibout

Signature

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